

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 22, 2026 9:30 A.M.

*FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

*AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH*



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## **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey  
**You are welcome in this place.**

### **Introit**

### **Sunset to Sunrise Changes Now**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

#### **Call to Worship**

**There are times when we gather to worship, aware of the budding of new life among us, rejoicing in the promises of grace that are made visible in this world.**

**There are times when we gather for worship, dragging our dry bones through the barrenness of the world, wondering if anything can ever live again.**

**There are times we come in grateful praise, and times we come because God needs to hear just how mad we are.**

**We worship in the knowledge that God calls our full selves, in all the seasons of our lives. We worship the God who loves us just as we are, and all that we bring to this moment together.**

#### **\*Hymn 251**

#### **I Greet You, Sure Redeemer**

#### **Prayer of Confession\*\***

You call us to be your voices in this world and we stay silent.

You call us to be your hands in this world and we keep them hidden.

You call us to be your feet in this world and we go our own way.

**When we meet those who are struggling and say nothing, forgive us.**

**When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us.**

**When we are called to take up your cross and carry nothing, forgive us.**

**Breathe life into these bones, bring freedom to these lives, that we might declare with heart and soul and voice and deed that you are our Lord and our God.**

#### ***Moment of Silent Confession***

#### **Assurance of Pardon\*\*\***

If God kept track of all our mistakes—the harmful things we say and do, the callous way we sometimes treat the people around us, the selfishness that puts our needs ahead of the needs of others—if God kept track, what chance would we have? But with unfailing love, God offers us forgiveness—complete forgiveness that erases our sins completely, and allows us to begin again. So be at peace – your sins are forgiven!

**Praise be to God!**

## **Anthem**

## **Prayer for Healing**

**Molly Ijames**

*Lord of this barren land swept by the flame,  
Here in my wilderness, I call your name.  
Refuge of wounded hearts bend low to hear.  
Binder of broken things, Father draw near.  
Friend in my sorrow, knower of all my grief.  
Tenderly hovering brings relief.  
Be to my weary soul repose.  
Be in my desert place, blossoming rose.  
Come like a gentle wind bringing the rain;  
Come like a healing touch, and soothe my pain.  
Fill with Your presence this desolate waste;  
Lord of this barren land, make of these ashes  
A beautiful place. Amen*

**Scripture John 11:1-45**

**Insert**

## **Sermon**

## **Love Persevering**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Prayer of our Savior**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **Call to Offering**

### **Offertory**

**O Sacred head, Now Wounded**

**Melody by Hassler, Harm. By Bach**

### **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**God of liberation and blessing, we bring our hands, our hearts, and our treasure before you, in faith that they may be transformed into healing. By grace, may we seek to heal the fractures between us, the pain that we inflict however unintentionally. In**

your love, may we learn to understand anew the ways that your presence lives within diverse bodies, and may we learn to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.

\*Hymn 212

Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns

\*Benediction

Benediction Response

Go In Peace

Postlude

Menuet from Suite Gothique

Leon Boellmann

*Boellmann (1862-1897), a student of the renowned French organist/composer Eugene Gigout, won first prizes in piano, organ and composition. His best-known work and a staple of the organ repertoire, the four-movement Suite Gothique was written in Paris in 1895.*

\*\*adapted from a prayer written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship.

<http://www.faithandworship.com/>

\*\*\*adapted from Psalm 130 by Christine Longhurst, re-worship.blogspot.com

\* Please stand

**Altar Flowers** Giving in loving memory of John Krietler  
By his family

Coffee Hour Host March 22<sup>nd</sup> Property and Finance

Book Club – March 25th 1p.m. in the Library

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

Women's Breakfast March April 15th, 8:30AM at the Water Street Cafe

Men's Breakfast April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17th, 8:00 AM at the Water Street Café

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